

SAFETY ALERT

CONVOY ACCIDENT PREVENTION

**RISK MANAGEMENT and COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS
ARE ESSENTIAL IN PLANNING and CONDUCTING
SAFE CONVOY OPERATIONS!**

Over the last two months USAREUR has experienced two separate major vehicle accidents that have occurred on secondary roads while conducting convoy operations. In both cases, the vehicle operators involved became lost and attempted to make a U-turn to change directions. While in the process of making these U-Turns, both of these vehicles were struck by oncoming civilian traffic. In the first accident, a German civilian received a life threatening head injury. The German civilian involved in the second accident was not so lucky. This civilian sustained fatal injuries resulting from the collision. The actual findings and causal factors involved in these accidents are currently under investigation.

Proper planning and control of Army convoys on public roads is essential to prevent traffic congestion and accidents. Here are some key convoy safety requirements:

- Conduct a thorough risk assessment of the convoy mission, and brief all drivers to include projected weather conditions and visibility.
- Ensure all vehicle operators are licensed and qualified for the mission.
- Ensure that all drivers know the route.
- Drivers must not make **U-turns** to change direction of travel in the event they become lost. Proceed to the nearest authorized traffic exchange to safely turn around.
- Ensure that ground guides are used.
- The Convoy Commander must ensure that all drivers, assistant drivers, and senior occupants are thoroughly briefed prior to the march on hazardous areas or conditions to be encountered (e.g., safe following distance, proper speed, route, rest periods, and signals) and that a comprehensive mission briefing is provided.